

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

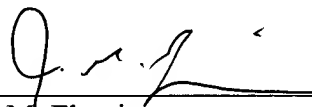
Applicants request the Examiner to consider the above amendment prior to an office action on the merits. Claims 9-10 and 17-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11-16, 19-23, 57, and 60-62 remain pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the Examiner Interview of February 9, 2006. Applicants have amended the claims to further clarify the scope of protection in response to the Interview. No new matter has been added with this amendment. Specifically, Applicants have amended the independent claims to include features of now canceled dependent claims 9 and 10 and additional features. Applicants believe the claims, as amended, are allowable over the art of record.

Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below. No fee is believed due, however, if any fees are required or if an overpayment has been made the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 19-0733. Applicants look forward to passage to issue of the present application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: March 3, 2006

By: 
John M. Fleming
Registration No. 56,536

1001 G Street, N.W.
Eleventh Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
(202) 824-3000